

## Notes concerning the taxonomic status of *Turanana panagaea taygetica* REBEL (Lep. Lycaenidae)

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*Turanana panagaea taygetica* was described by REBEL in 1902 on the basis of one male and two female specimens captured in 1901 by Martin HOLTZ on Mt. Taiyetos, S Peloponnissos, Greece, at an altitude of 2100 m. REBEL separated it from nominate *panagaea* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER from Asia Minor on superficial grounds.

TURNER in 1967, in his paper on butterfly records carried out in the Peloponnissos in 1958, 1960, 1963 and 1964, reported the capture of *panagaea* on Mt. Chelmos, N Peloponnissos and assigned it to ssp. *taygetica*.

Recent collecting by myself on both these mountains produced a single male and female *panagaea* from the Taiyetos and a sizeable series from Chelmos. The former agree well with REBEL's description of *taygetica*, but the latter differ from it by the browner ground colour underside and by the fact that the submarginal lunule on HW underside in S2 is orange instead of being yellow-buff ; in both these respects the Chelmos taxon is closer to nominate *panagaea* than to *taygetica*.

A study, however, of the male genitalia of both the Taiyetos and the Chelmos specimens, showed the two to be structurally identical to each other (figs. 1 & 2, examples *h, i, j & k*), but different from Asiatic nominate *panagaea* (Figs. 1 & 2, examples *a, b, c, d, e, f & g*) by the following characters :

1. The spikes on the distal margin of the Valva, numbering from 8 to 10 in nominate *panagaea*, do not extend to the apex of the Valva and the most proximal spike in the series is the smallest of the lot. In the Greek Taxon the spikes number from 14 to 20, they extend to the apex of the Valva and the most proximal of them is decidedly the largest.
2. When the Vesica is fully retracted inside the Penis sheath, its proximal end clearly overlaps the Anellus in the case of nominate *panagaea*, but barely reaches it in the Greek taxon.

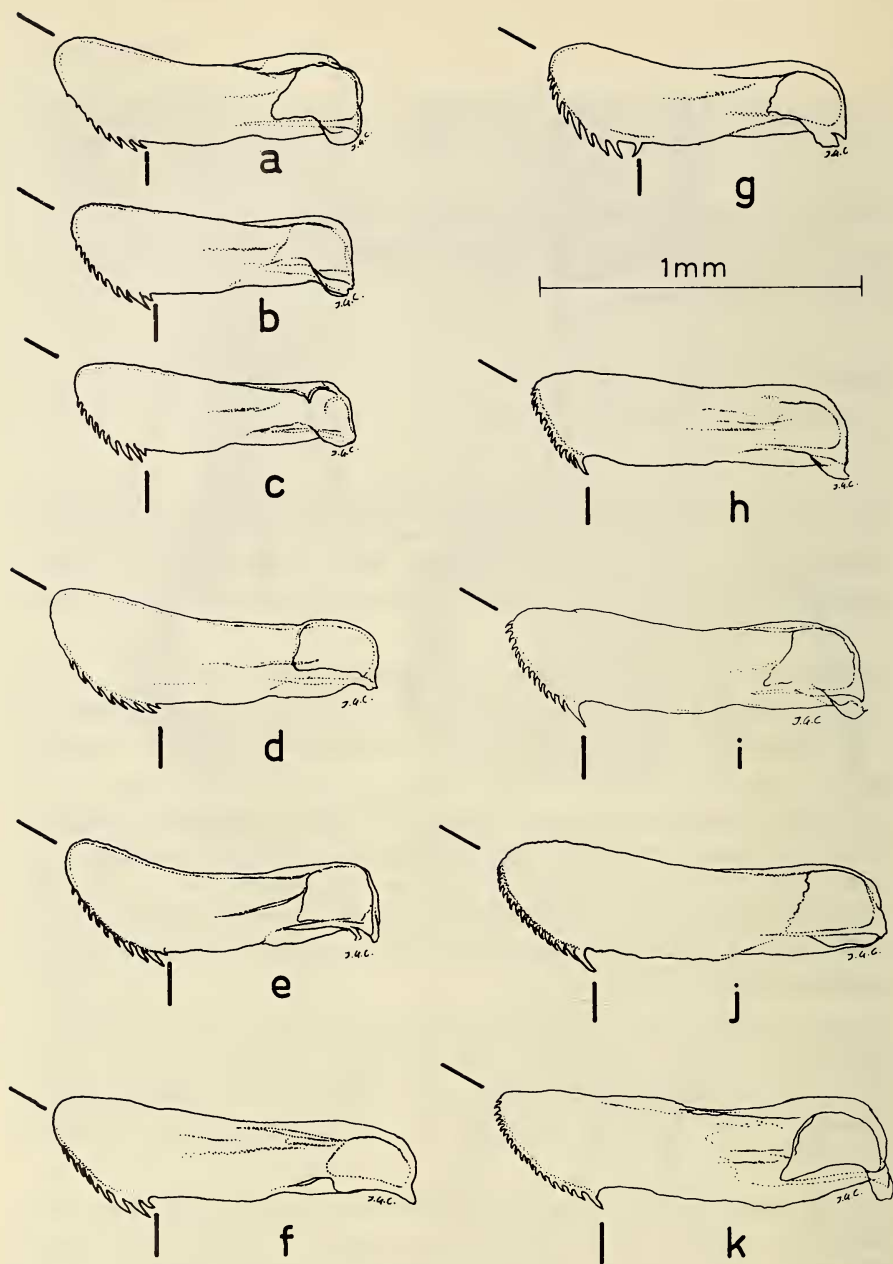


Fig. 1. Lateral view of interior face of left Valve.

*Turanana panagaea panagaea* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER

For Fig. 1 & 2 :

- a. Preparation No. 1582. Turkey, Gökpınar, 1600 m, 10.vii.1982.
- b. Preparation No. 1581. Turkey, Gökpınar, 1600 m, 10.vii.1982.
- c. Preparation No. 1579. Turkey, Gökpınar, 1600 m, 10.vii.1982.
- d. Preparation No. 1545. Turkey, Gökpınar, S of Gürün, 1500-1650 m, Prov. Sivas, 9/11.vii.1982.
- e. Preparation No. 998. Turkey, Gökpınar, S of Gürün, 1500-1650 m, Prov. Sivas, 9/11.vii.1982.
- f. Preparation No. 1591. Turkey, Amasia.
- g. Preparation No. 1590. Lebanon. (The left Valva shown here is atypical. The right Valva was found to be normal, showing an asymmetrical situation).

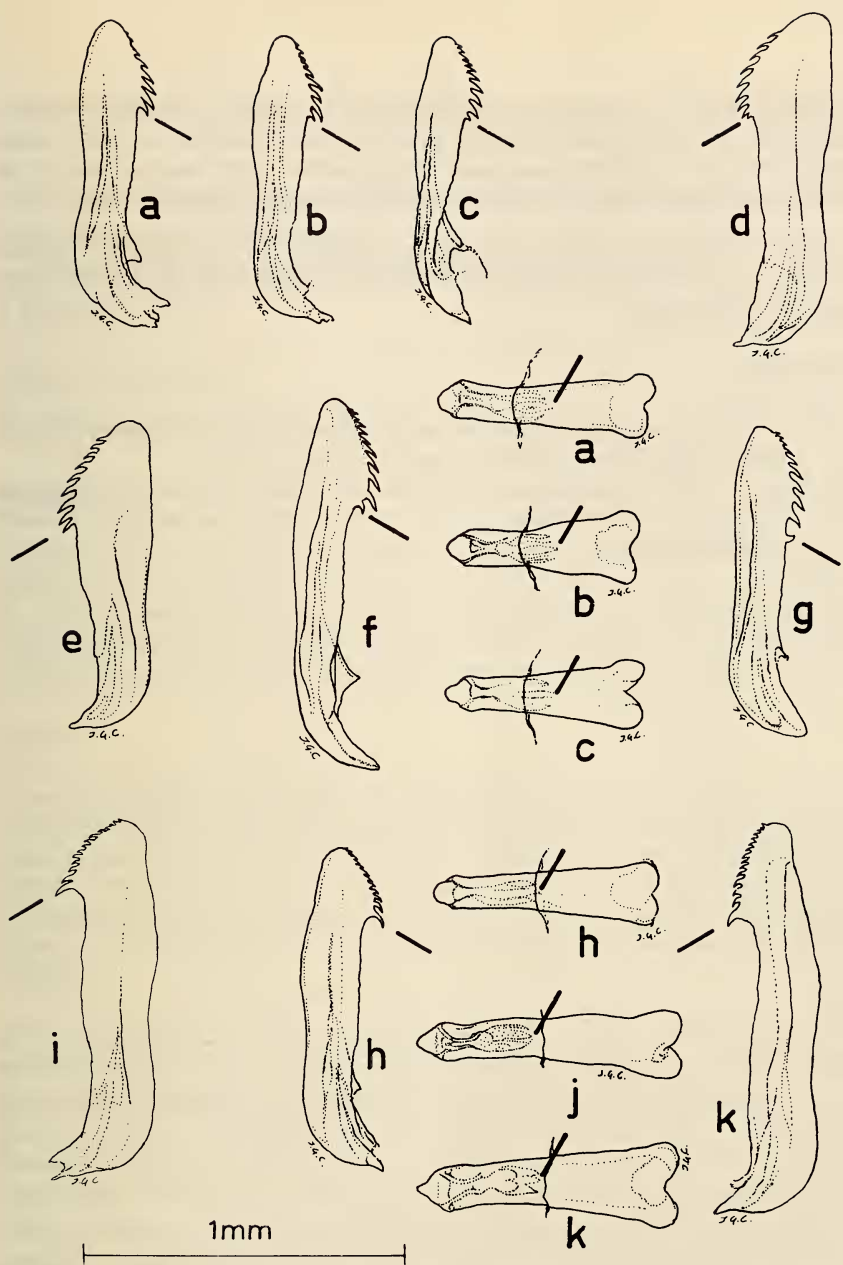


Fig. 2. Ventro-lateral view of left Valva (a, b, c, f, g & h) ; Ventro-Lateral view of right Valva (d, e, i & k) ; Ventral view of Penis (Vesica fully retracted).

*Turanana panagaea taygetica* REBEL

For Fig. 1 & 2 :

- h. Preparation No. 1580. Greece, Peloponnissos, Nomos Achaïas, Mt. Chelmos, 2100 m, 23.vi.1981.
- i. Preparation No. 1547. Greece, Peloponnissos, Nomos Achaïas, Mt. Chelmos, 2000 m, 27.VI.1977.
- j. Preparation No. 996. Greece, Peloponnissos, Nomos Achaïas, Mt. Chelmos, 2000 m, 27.vi.1977.
- k. Preparation No. 1546. Greece, Peloponnissos, Nomos Lakonias, Mt. Taiyetos, 2100 m, 6.vii.1984.

Furthermore, the Greek taxon differs from its Asiatic counterpart by the narrower and more sharply edged black marginal borders on both wings upperside. (In nominate *panagaea* these borders tend also to invade the postdiscal area of the FW, almost reaching the black discoidal stria).

All this suggests that perhaps what we have here are two closely allied specific entities. A comparative study of the immature stages may shed some more light on this matter.

## References

- REBEL, H. 1902. Lepidopteren aus Morea gesammelt von Herrn Martin HOLTZ im Jahre 1901. *Berliner Entomol. Zeitschr.*, **XLVII** : 83-110.
- THURNER, J. 1967. Lepidopteren aus Morea. Ein weiterer Beitrag zur Fauna des Peloponnes (Griechenland). *Zeitschrift der Wiener Entomologischen Gesellschaft*, **52** : 5-19.